

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 848

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to recognize Woody Harrell on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Woody Harrell, longtime Superintendent of Shiloh National Military Park, is one such estimable person who has served the State with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harrell will take a much deserved retirement in April 2012 after more than forty years of distinguished public service; and

WHEREAS, a North Carolina native, Woody Harrell holds degrees in history and geography from Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Mr. Harrell began his career at Moores Creek National Military Park and, after his service in the United States Army, he worked at the three parks of the Cape Hatteras group and later served as Director of Visitor Services under the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, and as an instructor at the Horace Albright Training Center; and

WHEREAS, the majority of his laudable career has been spent working on Civil War sites and, in addition to his time at Shiloh Battlefield, Superintendent Harrell's previous assignments include serving as Historian at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park for six years, and for three years at Manassas National Battlefield Park; and

WHEREAS, Woody Harrell has served with acumen and alacrity as the Superintendent of Shiloh National Military Park since August 28, 1990, and he has the distinct honor of having the longest tenure of any manager in Shiloh Park's 117-year history; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career at the park, Mr. Harrell has served as the driving force on countless projects: during a time of budget constraints and limited resources, he has not only maintained Shiloh's status as America's best preserved battlefield, he has overseen a major expansion of the park into Mississippi with the creation of a new Corinth Unit; and

WHEREAS, he is credited as the visionary force in planning and constructing the flagship of this addition, the award-winning Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center; and

WHEREAS, seeking to establish a natural buffer around historic Shiloh Hill, thus preventing future encroachment and inappropriate development, Woody Harrell has partnered with the Civil War Trust on Shiloh Battlefield's most ambitious land acquisition program in more than seventy-five years, with more than 300 additional acres within Shiloh's original 1894 authorized boundary now under National Park Service protection; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harrell also created the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, an idea that has grown into a searchable electronic database with 6.2 million records on Civil War veterans; this innovative and ambitious Park Service project allows visitors to access information on relatives and the units in which they fought, enabling families to trace an ancestor's service throughout the war; and

WHEREAS, during the 1990s, Superintendent Harrell partnered with the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Highway Administration to halt riverbank erosion at the Shiloh Indian Mounds National Historic Landmark, a problem that had plagued the park for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, Woody Harrell serves on the advisory board of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association and he is an ex-officio member of the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Harrell was named *Time Magazine's* Man of the Year in 1966 and, in 2002, he received the Civil War Preservation Trust's Preservation of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, since March 2007, Woody Harrell has maintained a record of visiting every unit of the National Park System; his list now stands at 397 parks; and

WHEREAS, his innumerable accomplishments aside, Mr. Harrell is also deeply devoted to his family and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is perhaps most proud of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Cynthia, and their two sons, Stephen and Adam; and

WHEREAS, Woody Harrell exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Harrell has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Woody Harrell our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.